

Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS EPA FOR WILLIAM BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJ: COLD-REGIONS EXCHANGE: SOME NOTES FROM A SUCCESSFUL VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 14384

1. USDEL ON COLD-REGIONS EXCHANGE (JOHNSON, SAYLES) ARRIVED MOSCOW IN MID-JULY FOR TWO-MONTH VISIT IN U.S.S.R. FOR FAMILIARIZATION WITH SOVIET EXPERIENCE AND ONGOING RESEARCH IN THERMAL REGIMES IN PERMAFROST DAMS (EARTH-AND-ROCK-FILL), AN AREA WHERE THE U.S.S.R. HAS CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPERIENCE THAN THE U.S.

2. ACCORDING TO JOHNSON AND SAYLES, SOVIETS WERE EXTREMELY FORTHCOMING DURING ENTIRE VISIT AND MUCH PROFITABLE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED. EXAMPLES OF SOVIET EFFORTS: (A) "FULFILLING" OF USDEL REQUESTS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO INDIVIDUALS (ONE ILL AND ONE ON VACATION ON BLACK SEA), ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS MENTIONED BY USDEL WERE PRODUCED BY THE SOVIETS. AT LEAST TWO OF THE SOVIETS WERE BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER CITIES (ONE WAS FROM GORKY; USDEL HAD ASKED INFORMALLY TO GO THERE, UNAWARE OF "CLOSED" CITY SITUATION AND ITS POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SOVIET RESPONSE).

(B) "OVERFULFILLING" REQUESTS. ACCORDING TO USDEL, SOVIETS ALSO BROUGHT IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TECHNICAL CONTACTS, OF WHICH US-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEL MEMBERS WERE PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE. INTERESTINGLY, ONE CONTACT

ACTED IN FRONT OF USDEL AS THOUGH HE HAD NO INFORMATION FOR USDEL DURING FIRST MEETING, BUT ON SECOND DAY SPOKE LONG AND ENTHUSIAS-
TICALLY, PROVIDING MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION.

(C) "RELEASABLE" AND "UNRELEASABLE" DATA. SOVIETS PROVIDED MUCH DATA FROM PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS (POUCHED TO CRREL THROUGH EUR/SOV), BUT WERE CHARY ABOUT PROVIDING RAW DATA. USDEL HAD PRESSED, AND SOVIETS HAD EXPLAINED THAT PROVIDING IT WOULD BE AGAINST THE (SOVIET) LAW. (EMBOFF HAS EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO FIND WAY TO MAXIMIZE SCIENTIFIC INTERCHANGE WITHIN LI-
MITS OF THESE LAWS, COPIES OF WHICH WE ARE AWAITING FROM SOVIETS UNDER S&T AGREEMENT, 01.). ALTHOUGH SOVIETS REFUSED TO GIVE COPIES OF UNPUBLISHED DATA, THEY DID ALLOW USDEL TO PHOTOGRAPH CHARTS OF UNPUBLISHED DATA, AND IN ONE CASE TOOK US BACK TO RE-PHOTO-
GRAPH A CHART IN BETTER PHOTOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS. THIS LITTLE PLOY LIKELY STRETCHES THE SOVIET LAW AT LEAST TO THE LIMITS OF ELASTICITY, IF NOT BEYOND IT.

3. RETURN SOVDEL WILL APPARENTLY BE DEPARTING FOR U.S. SHORTLY (REFTEL), NOW THAT SOME "INTERNAL PERMISSION" PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SOLVED. FYI. USDEL WAS INFORMED BY SOVDEL THAT MFA HAD SAID THAT OBTAINING VISA FROM EMBASSY IS "VERY DIFFICULT," I.E. THAT WE'RE THE BAD GUYS. EMBOFF HAS ASKED JOHNSON AND SAYLES TO ASSURE SOVDEL THAT EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE VISA ISSUANCE WHEN REQUEST RECEIVED, BUT THAT VISA CANNOT BE ISSUED UNTIL MFA SENDS THE VISA REQUEST.

4. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT FOR SUBJECT EXCHANGE FORESAW ONLY THE TWO VISITS (USDEL TO USSR AND SOVDEL TO U.S), JOHNSON SAID THAT USDEL AND SOVIETS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING OPTIMISTICALLY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INSTALLING U.S.-MADE (AND PROVIDED) TEMPERATURE-MONITORING EQUIPMENT IN A SOON-TO-BE-CONSTRUCTED SOVIET PERMAFROST DAM. ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, SOVIETS WOULD HELP INSTALL EQUIPMENT AND MAINTAIN IT, AND THE RUSULTANT DATA WOULD BE ANALYZED IN THE U.S. JOHNSON BELIEVES THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY IS PRACTICALLY UNIQUE, THAT THERE IS NO PRACTICAL WAY FOR U.S. TO GAIN SUCH INFORMATION WITHIN THE U.S.

5. JOHNSON ALSO REPORTED HIS BELIEF THAT "OUTCALT'S GROUP" (PROB-
ABLY 02.0521) APPEARS TO BE MAKING REAL PROGRESS TOWARD ANOTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BENEFICIAL ARRANGEMENT. SOVIETS HAVE SET UP AN EIGHT-PERSON CREW TO MONITOR CONSTANTLY THE ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES AROUND A LAKE (AN EXPEDITION THAT, ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, WOULD BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE IN THE U.S.). THE SOVIETS' PROBLEM IS THAT THEY CANNOT HANDLE THE DATA, AND JOHNSON SAID THAT OUTCALT AND SOVIETS ARE APPROACHING AGREEMENT TO TURN DATA OVER TO AMERICANS FOR PROCESSING, SO LONG AS SOVIETS RECEIVE A COPY OF THE RESULT.
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